

Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds Allotment: North Wildcat Creek

North Wildcat Creek is being used as a travelway for cattle. Cattle are trailing down into the Creek wherever they can, and the erodible soil is largely denuded wherever the cattle have access. Riparian vegetation is largely absent. One patch of old coyote willow found is heavily browsed at its upstream and downstream edges as well as within the patch.

Major concerns:

- Upland forage appears minimal in the area surrounding North Wildcat Creek, making it nearly impossible to contemplate cattle not using the creek as a travelway and browsing/grazing location.
- This creek would seem to need several years of rest to recover some of its riparian vegetation. Even then, there would seem to be no practicable means of keeping the cattle out of the creek to undo any restoration that might take place.



Fig. 1 Lower N. Wildcat Creek; denuded banks, lack of riparian vegetation.



Fig. 2. Upper N. Wildcat Creek: Cheatgrass; trampled, eroding banks.



Fig. 3 Upper N. Wildcat: incised creek, cattle trailing on loose slopes.